the progress made therein so far; and

whether this is likely to be completed the next rainy season to avert and avoid flooding of the airport and if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government has sanctioned the upgradation of Visakhapatanam Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 191.52 crores, out of which Rs. 141.52 crore is being funded by the Ministry of Defence and Rs. 25 crore by the Airport Authority of India and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The estimated cost of new runway, apron taxi track and isolation bay is Rs. 90.80 crore. The new terminal building is not a part of this project.

70% of the total work package has been completed as on 31 3.2006.

the project is likely to be completed as scheduled by December 2006. The flood control measures for the airport are not part of the project and are to be taken by the State Government.

Joint Development of Futuristic Weapon System With USA

2597. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of the proposal from USA in regard to Jointly developing futuristic weapon system indicating details of its term of reference?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): There is no proposal from USA for Joint Development of "Futuristic Weapon System"

Vacation of spectrum used by Defence

2598. Dr. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether Government has decided to vacate 45 MHZ of spectrum being used by Defence for use of cellular operators;

if so, the total cost of release of spectrum for civil use; and

the manner in which the communication needs of the Defence will be met?